

ASSEMBLY BILL 2694

TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD

SUMMARY

AB 2694 encourages schools to choose the most current and relevant technology when updating their instructional materials. Use of current, relevant technology in instructional materials cannot be underestimated. Not only do K-12 students relate to technology in ways that no previous generation has, but technology offers unprecedented assistance with learning for all students, whether they are advanced learners or students with disabilities. Today's technology is able to complement an existing curriculum in ways that were unimaginable 20 years ago.

The average class in California's public schools is not run with today most current technology. Because students relate to a high-tech world in ways that no other generation has, this bill was introduced to encourage schools to make a conscientious effort at engaging all students in their day-to-day instruction through the use of current, relevant technology when and where it is appropriate.

BACKGROUND

At one time, permanent ink pens were considered an advanced technology, so were whiteboards and overhead projectors. However, technology has been advancing at an exponential pace over the last 10 years, which means the generation of students currently attending grades K-12 is the first generation of students growing up in a digital world with laptops, smart phones, broadband internet, etc. Unfortunately, the average classroom today does not incorporate this technology, even though

much of it is free to the public or cheaper than a textbook. It is unfair to assume that the tools we used 20 years ago are adequate in and of themselves in preparing students for today's world. White boards and overhead projectors have a role in our classrooms, but like pencils and paper, such technology should be the starting point for our instructional materials; our schools must understand that incorporating today's technology can only enhance our student's learning environment, and that incorporating such technology does not necessarily mean large and costly investments.

SUPPORT

California School Board Association
California Federation of Teachers

CONTACT

Bridget Kolakosky
916-319-2040
bridget.kolakosky@asm.ca.gov